

A GRAND BALL

King Kalakaua Entertains Regally at Iolani Palace.

A Large and Distinguished Company in Attendance—Beautiful Decorations—Elegant Toilets, Etc.

Monday evening His Majesty the King gave a grand ball at Iolani Palace to the U.S. Rear Admiral and the Captains and officers of the several men-of-war in port, the occasion being the departure of H. B. M. S. Champion for British Columbia.

It was one of the largest balls ever given at Iolani Palace and the scene in the throne room when dancing was going on, with the mingling of elegant toilets worn by the ladies and the uniforms of the naval officers, was charming in the extreme. In the grand hallway the decorations were very neat, consisting of potted palms and ferns with their spreading foliage placed in such a position as to make the effect pleasing to the eye. The throne room with its innumerable crystal electric lights looked magnificent.

The front and the Ewa side of the Palace were beautifully illuminated with colored lanterns, the design being unique as seen from the approaches to the building. Throughout the spacious grounds were hung large colored lanterns.

The invited guests began to arrive soon after half past eight o'clock, and were met at the main entrance by the officers of His Majesty's staff, and conducted to the dressing-rooms, which on this occasion were below, thus giving more room on the main floor. The Hawaiian Band, under the direction of Mr. Berger, was stationed on the veranda on the Waikiki side of the Palace, the front veranda being by this arrangement used as a promenade.

About half past 9 o'clock Their Majesties the King and Queen entered the Throne room, the Band playing the National anthem. Their Majesties stood just below the dais during the reception. H. R. H. Princess Liliuokalani, Hon. A. S. Cleghorn, and His Majesty's Ministers were to the right of the King. Her Majesty was attended by Mrs. J. W. Robertson as lady in waiting. The naval officers, diplomatic and consular corps were first received and then private citizens. The reception lasted over half an hour. Col. the Hon. G. W. Macfarlane, H. M.'s Chamberlain, and Mr. J. W. Robertson, Vice Chamberlain, were most assiduous in their attention to all present, and their well-directed efforts made the occasion a most successful one throughout.

Dancing commenced shortly after the reception, the order of dances being: Lancers, waltz, polka, lancers, waltz, schottische, lancers, waltz, polka, lancers, waltz, schottische, waltz. At 12:30 in the morning an elegant supper was served in the dining hall, there being an abundance of the most toothsome edibles. The ball was a brilliant affair. Among those present were: His Ex. Jona. Austin, Mons. G. B. d'Anglade, His Ex. C. W. Ashford, C. A. C. Misses Afong (2), Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Atkinson, Misses Atkinson (2), Colonel V. V. Ashford, Mrs. L. C. Ables, Captain J. G. Green and officers of the U.S.S. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Aldrich, Captain Pollard and officers of H. B. M. S. Acorn.

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Hawaii at Yale.

The Hawaiian club at Yale were the recipients of a dinner and social evening, May 9th, at the hands of Miss Gower recently constituted an honorary member of the club. The club testified their appreciation of the young lady and her kindness by presenting her with a pin, made to order in New York consisting of a horseshoe set with pearls with an attached bangle on which was enameled in black the word "Aloha." In response to the demand for a "speech" in Hawaiian the blushing young lady ejaculated "maikai" which she declared was all the Hawaiian she knew, but with an earnestness and sincerity which betokened a full heart. The guests commended the liberal and genial hospitality as a remembrance of old times on Hawaii, to which the host replied that the youth of Hawaii had evidently not forgotten the old custom of "hookupa." In addition to very pleasant recollections each member of the club carried away a little souvenir of the occasion.

NOMAD.

The New Bark Albert.

The S. F. Examiner of May 19th says: The bark Albert will be launched to-morrow from the ways at Port Blakely. The new vessel has been built by Hall Bros. of that place for Captain G. F. Smith the lumber merchant of this city. She is 197 feet in length over all, 38½ feet in breadth of beam and 14½ feet in depth of hold. She has been named after Albert S. Wilcox, and will ply between this port and Honolulu, her carrying capacity being 1,200 tons of sugar. It will take about two weeks to rig her, and she will then be loaded with lumber and sail for San Francisco. She will load here with a general cargo of merchandise for Honolulu.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made, or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

The Barking Sands of Kauai and Niihau.

Mr. Editor: The so-called "barking sands" of Kauai are mentioned in the works of several travelers in the Hawaiian Islands, and have a world-wide fame as a natural curiosity; as a rule, however, the printed accounts are meagre in details and show the authors to have been unacquainted with similar phenomena elsewhere.

Jointly with Dr. Alexis A. Julien of Columbia College, New York, I have been studying the properties of sonorous sand for a long time, and have visited many localities in America, Europe and Asia; hence, I was able during a recent visit to Kauai to make some notes and comparisons that may interest the residents of this kingdom.

Notwithstanding recent rains I found the sand on the dune at Maunaloa to the depth of four or five inches, and when pushed down the steep incline, it gave out a deep bass note having a tremulous character. This hardly resembles the "barking" of a dog; but a sound somewhat like it is produced by playing the hands into the sand and bringing them vigorously together. Another way is to fill a long bag three-quarters full of sand and then, dividing its contents into two parts, holding one in each hand, to clap the two portions together. This I had found to be a good method for testing the sonorousness of sand on sea beaches. A bag of the sand will preserve its acoustic qualities a long time if kept dry, and not too frequently manipulated. The angle at which the sand lies where it falls over the dune is 31°; the sonorousness extends several hundred feet along the dune, being interrupted by a creeping vine that thrives marvelously in such a soil.

A similar dune of sonorous sand occurs on Niihau, as has long been known to residents of the island; and it has been also reported to occur near Koloa.

These observations, simple as they are, have been of special interest to me because they show that the sand of these localities forms a link between that of the sea-beaches and that of a certain hill on the Gulf of Suez known as Jebel Nagous, and which I visited in April, 1889. Sonorous sand is of more common occurrence than generally supposed; it is found on the Atlantic coast of the United States, from Maine to Florida, on the Pacific coast, in Europe, Japan, Africa, Tasmania, etc., as well as on the shores of many fresh water lakes. In these localities it forms areas generally between low tide and the base of adjoining dunes, and emits sounds only when subjected to friction by the feet and hands, or in a bag as described. At Jebel Nagous in Arabia, on the other hand, the sand rests in a ravine and produces sound only when it rolls down the incline, (which it often does spontaneously) and fails to respond to kicks and cuffs. The sand at Mana, as shown, unites in itself both these acoustic properties. The angle at which the sand lies at Jebel Nagous is the same as at Mana, 31 deg. being the "angle of rest" for fine dry sand. The musical notes obtained at these far separated localities are also the same, but in Arabia the incline is 390 feet high and consequently the sounds are far louder, especially as they are further magnified by being echoed from adjoining cliffs.

The sand at Kauai and Niihau is made up of fragments of shell and coral, while that of all other localities known to us (over one hundred in number) is siliceous. This shows that the sonorousness is independent of material. Examination under the microscope further shows that the sonorous quality is not connected with the shape of the grains. Sonorous sand is distinguished by being remarkably free from fine dust or silt; the individual grains are very uniform in size. It is very easy to deprive sand of its acoustic power by mixing a little earth with it, or by wetting it. It is difficult, if not impossible, to restore to sand its sonorous quality when once "killed."

A number of hypotheses have been proposed to explain the cause of this curious property of certain sands. The prevalent idea in these islands that the sound is due to the cellular structure of the sand must be abandoned, since most sonorous sand is not so constituted, that of Kauai forming an exception. Some have attributed the sonorous quality to saline crusts, others to electricity, effervescence of air between the particles, reverberation within subterranean cavities, and to solarization; and one author attempts to explain the phenomenon by writing of "a reduplication of impulses setting air in vibration in a focus of echo." These theories Dr. Julien and I reject for reasons I cannot here detail, and we believe the true cause of sonorousness to be connected with thin pellicles or films of air, or of gases thence derived, deposited and condensed upon the surface of the

sand grains during gradual evaporation after wetting by seas, lakes or rains. By virtue of these films the sand grains become separated by elastic cushions of condensed gases, capable of considerable vibration and whose thickness we have approximately determined. The extent of the vibration and the volume and pitch of the sound thereby produced, we also find to be largely dependent upon the forms, structures and surfaces of the sand grains, and especially upon their purity or freedom from fine silt or dust.

We have shown that the pitch of the musical notes obtained on sea beaches is proportional to the mass of sand moved, the greater the mass the lower the tones; on the dunes of Kauai and Niihau the same holds true. Those who wish to learn more details of our investigations, can find abstracts of three papers read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the Proceedings for 1883, 1884 and 1889.

In conclusion, I take pleasure in expressing my thanks to Mr. Valdemar Knudsen for valuable information, and to Mr. H. P. Faye for hospitality and kind aid in my examination of the Nohili. I am also under great obligations to Mr. and Mrs. George S. Gay of Niihau for a generous hospitality in their island home.

H. CARRINGTON BOLTON, Ph.D., Secretary of the New York Academy of Sciences.

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